



NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

SEISMIC UPGRADE TO PROTECT COQUITLAM STUDENTS, STAFF

COQUITLAM – The Province has approved \$6 million in seismic upgrades to make Porter Street elementary school safer, Burquitlam MLA Harry Bloy announced today.

“The safety of our children is a top priority,” said Bloy. “With these upgrades, students and staff can continue to achieve their goals in a safer school.”

The construction is scheduled to take place over 10 months beginning this June, and includes reinforcing both the roof and walls. The exterior brick masonry walls will be strengthened by inserting steel reinforcement and fastening it to the roof and foundations. In addition, some interior wood frame walls will be upgraded to shear walls by applying plywood sheathing and improving connections to the roof and foundations.

“The ministry’s approval of this seismic project is great news for the Coquitlam school district, students, parents and staff at Porter Street elementary school,” said board chair Melissa Hyndes. “These upgrades will provide students with a safe environment to ensure quality learning opportunities.”

“The work we are doing on Porter Street elementary school is part of a \$1.5-billion program to ensure students and staff are learning and teaching in schools that meet current seismic standards,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “Our program is the most comprehensive seismic plan ever by a B.C. government.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$46.5 million in the Coquitlam school district to complete eight capital projects, including six additions, one replacement, and the construction of Heritage Woods secondary in 2004, a new school that has room for 1,200 students.

During the same period, the Province spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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